

Amendments to the Claims

A full list of the claims is as follows:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A method for producing a stress-resistant plant, comprising culturing or cultivating a transgenic plant having an environmental stress responsive promoter that is operably coupled to a gene encoding a stress-responsive protein, wherein the environmental stress responsive promoter comprises the following (a) or (b):

(a) DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; and

(b) DNA hybridizing under stringent conditions to DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and functioning as an environmental stress responsive promoter, wherein the stringent conditions are 5X SSC (83 mM NaCl and 83 mM sodium citrate) and temperature of 42° C, and;

wherein the environmental stress is drought stress or salt stress.

19. (New) A method for enhancing the expression of a gene encoding a stress-responsive protein, comprising:

(i) providing an environmental stress responsive promoter comprising the following (a) or (b):

(a) DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; and

(b) DNA hybridizing under stringent conditions to DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 and functioning as an environmental stress responsive promoter, wherein the stringent conditions are 5X SSC (83 mM NaCl and 83 mM sodium citrate) and temperature of 42° C, and wherein the environmental stress is drought stress or salt stress;

(ii) operably coupling the promoter to the gene.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising transferring the gene to a cell.